

DIOXIN REASSESSMENT

Jo Ann Camacho (ERT/Edison) noted that the dioxin reassessment has gone through public and peer review, and is currently being reviewed by the Science Advisory Board. As she understands it, the main implication of the reassessment is that the cancer slope factor will be 6.25 times more conservative than the one that is currently in use.

Jo Ann is on a workgroup, chaired by David Cooper, that is gathering information that will be used to help set the policy resulting from the reassessment. The group is trying to determine what the implications are of lowering the EPA dioxin standard from 1 ppb to 0.1 ppb or lower. They are looking for real information both on increases in cost and volume, and on effects on cleaned-up sites and sites with low levels of dioxin. The workgroup is also interested in garnering information on how the change in the cancer slope factor will affect risk assessments both at Superfund and RCRA sites, how it may affect work with sediments, and how it may affect treatment options.

Forum members or friends who currently have or have had a dioxin site in the past and could help the workgroup gather information should contact Jo Ann directly. Jo Ann also asked EF members to forward this request to RPMs and Division Directors.

Cynthia Wetmore (Region 9) suggested that JoAnn contact Harry Ball, who is familiar with dioxin issues in Region 9. Harry can be reached by telephone at (415)744-2309 or via email at ball.harold@epa.gov. Cynthia or Harry will get a list of Region 9 dioxin sites to JoAnn.

Frank Vavra echoed JoAnn's concerns regarding a need for more data, especially on background levels of dioxin in certain areas.

The three main issues that Forum members raised were:

- a. How will the dioxin standard change affect analytics?
- b. What will a lowering of the standard accomplish?
- c. How will site managers address the issue of background dioxin levels?

JoAnn will bring these questions to the workgroup for discussion.